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## Soviet Union Studies the U.S.

We've been a trifle worried about the picture that the Kremlin has been receiving about the character of the United States.

The Russian hierarchy of course knows about our troubles — violent dissent about the war in Southeast Asia, burnings and bloodshed on college campuses, the doves in Congress who would tie the hands of President Nixon, conflicts between the ethnic groups, the status of our economy, and crime in the streets, just to tick off a few.

But there's evidence that the Kremlin takes all this dissent with several grains of salt. It is not quite sure that the United States, in former Premier Khrushchev's term, is ready and ripe "to be buried."

A prestigious new Soviet agency called the Institute of the United States of America, has recently been put together. Its members are English-speaking scholars whose directive is to examine American economic, political and social matters for the edification of the Kremlin and its corps of advisers in those areas.

The United States has a counterpart, called Kremlinologists, made up of Russian-speaking experts in all phases of Russian activity. They offer advice to our State Department and the CIA.

The Russian institute is housed in an 18th Century mansion in central Moscow. Its mission is to produce a more accurate picture of the United States than is presented by the news media. The Russian people, despite efforts of our Voice of America radio programs, are being fed a distorted image of the mood in the United States, including our capacities to remain a major force for peace and progress.

A member of the Russian team, Yuri Bobrakov, an earnest scholar at one time attached to the Russian embassy in Washington, puts it this way: "Our country and the United States are the two most powerful nations in the world. We should know each other better."

We may be misled, but at the moment this new move is one of the most encouraging signs emerging in a long time.